

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 2419, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

The House passed H.R. 810, Stem Cell Enhancement Act of 2005.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5815–S5857

Measures Introduced: Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1108–1115. **Page S5851**

Measures Reported:

S. 21, to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–71)

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Nomination Considered: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S5817–40**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 81 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 127), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing that when the Senate resumes consideration of the nomination on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, that the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the Majority Leader and the Democratic Leader, or their designees; and that at 12 noon all time be expired under Rule 22, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S5840**

Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing that at a time determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, it be in order to move to proceed en bloc to the nominations of David W. McKeague, of Michigan, and Richard A. Griffin, of Michigan, each to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, if reported by the Committee on the Judiciary; that there be ten hours

of debate equally divided between the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Ranking Member, or their designees; and that following the use, or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S5857**

Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing that at a time determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Thomas B. Griffith, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; that there be four hours of debate equally divided between the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Ranking Member, or their designees; and that following the use, or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S5857**

Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Charles S. Ciccolella, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, be jointly referred to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and Veterans' Affairs. **Page S5857**

Appointment:

United States Capitol Preservation Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appointed Senator Allard as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice Senator Bennett.

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Messages From the House:

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Measures Referred:

Pages S5844–45

Measures Placed on Calendar:

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Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S5845–51

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S5851–52

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S5852–56****Additional Statements:****Pages S5842–44****Amendments Submitted:****Page S5856****Authority for Committees to Meet:****Page S5856****Privilege of the Floor:****Page S5856**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—127)

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m. until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 25, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5857.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General, and Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigations, both of the Department of Justice.

U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 529, to designate a United States Anti-Doping Agency and to examine the competitive pressures that lead amateur athletes to use drugs, the sources of such drugs, and the science of doping, after receiving testimony from Jim Scherr, U.S. Olympic Committee, and Terrence Madden, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, both of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Roger Blake, California Interscholastic Federation, Alameda; Don H. Catlin, University of California at Los Angeles Medical School; and Kelli White, Voorhees, New Jersey.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Alex Azar II, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was introduced by Senator Hatch, Timothy D. Adams, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, who was introduced by Senator McConnell, Suzanne C. DeFrancis, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Public Affairs, Charles E. Johnson, of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Budget,

Technology, and Finance, who was introduced by Senator Hatch, and Shara L. Aranoff, of Maryland, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, who was introduced by Senator Baucus, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison, Cornyn and Martinez; Victoria Nuland, of Connecticut, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Lieberman; Julie Finley, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Warner; and John F. Tefft, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Georgia, and Craig Roberts Stapleton, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to France, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

U.S. SPECIAL COUNSEL

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine a review of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, focusing on safeguarding the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing, after receiving testimony from Scott J. Bloch, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

SPECIALTY HOSPITALS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security concluded an oversight hearing to examine the competitive effects of specialty hospitals, after receiving testimony from John D. Graubert, Principal Deputy General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission; Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; Regina E. Herzlinger, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts; Stan Pelofsky, Oklahoma Spine Hospital, Oklahoma City; John T. Thomas, Baylor Health Care System, Dallas, Texas; William G. Plested, American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois; James E. Cain, Lampasas, Texas; and Ed Jungbluth, Albuquerque, New Mexico.